

Female foeticide

†1127. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a steep increase in the female foeticide cases during the last few months;

(b) if so, the details of such cases came into knowledge of Government, State-wise;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to make the law more stringent to control female foeticide; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Census is done in every ten year. Over the period from 1991-2001, the sex ratio in the country increased from 927 females per thousand males to 933 per thousand. However, during the same period the child sex ratio (0 to 6 years) has declined from 945 to 927. It is not possible to have these figures on monthly basis.

Through sting operation carried out by the news media, some instances of female foeticide has come to the notice of the Government. These instances are as follows:

- (i) Star News "Sansani Programme" on 8th-9th March, 2006 in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- (ii) CNBC "Awaz Programme" on 17th-18th February, 2006 in Delhi.
- (iii) Sahara Samay "Kokh main Katal" Programme in April and June, 2006 in Rajasthan, Gujarat, and M.P.

(c) and (d) The Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PC&PNDT) has already enough provisions for punishment to violators. The person who contravenes the provisions of this Act is punishable with imprisonment upto 5 years and fine upto Rs. 1,00,000.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Act is being implemented by the District Appropriate Authorities along with the cooperation of District Advisory Committees.

Law to ban the use of tobacco, etc.

1128. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether facing criticism for its lax attitude in curtailing sales of contaminated food products, his Ministry is contemplating on bringing out a public health law;

(b) if so, whether this law would give enough powers to Government to announce a ban on any health hazards like tobacco, cigarettes, chemicals which causes bio-terrorism and even colas, if these are found guilty of causing diseases; and

(c) if so, what are the other features of the proposed law and by when it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir. There is no specific proposal at present to bring out a public health law in this Ministry, although there is a proposal to bring out a public health emergencies legislation.

(b) and (c) The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 which came into force on 1st May, 2004 is comprehensive legislation in so far as tobacco is concerned and gives enough powers to Government to control tobacco use and reduce its health hazards.

The Government of India is engaged in preparation of the draft "Public Health Emergencies Bill" which will address potential challenges to tackle public health emergencies in the country arising as result of disasters and bio-terrorism activities etc.